

09/490,529645XXCOMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A personal shopping system for servicing customers at shopping establishment and remote locations over at least one communications network, the shopping system comprising:

at least one point-of-sale (POS) system located in the shopping establishment;

at least one establishment or remotely located portable shopping terminal for acquiring shopping related data; [[and]]

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a centrally located controller for communicating with [[said]] the POS system and [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal via [[said]] the at least one network, processing [[said]] the shopping related data, and controlling shopping transactions engaged in by [[said]] the customers, wherein the at least one shopping terminal is a bar code storage device for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, storing the bar codes, and transferring the bar codes to the controller over the at least one network; and

one or more proximity sensors coupled to the controller for monitoring product sales areas in the shopping establishment.

2. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, [[said]] the portable terminal comprising an elongated pen-shaped housing having an end with an optically transparent passage there through.

3. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, [[said]] the portable terminal comprising:

a housing having a generally elongated rectangular design which fits into user's hand, [[said]] the housing having a front surface, a back surface, a top surface, a bottom surface and two side surfaces;

a touch sensitive display disposed on [[said]] the front surface;

a plurality of buttons disposed on [[said]] the front surface wherein each of [[said]] the buttons is associated with at least one user function or application upon activation;

a bar code reader for reading bar codes, [[said]] the bar code reader having a visible light source for displaying the area of reading for the bar code reader upon activation of a bar code reading function on [[said]] the portable terminal, [[said]] the bar code reader being configured to

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transmit the visible light away from [[said]] the top surface of [[said]] the portable terminal's housing such that [[said]] the light is visible to [[said]] the user holding [[said]] the portable terminal; and

at least two bar code activation buttons located on [[said]] the two side surfaces of [[said]] the housing such that [[said]] the user's hand is supporting [[said]] the portable terminal from [[said]] the bottom and side surfaces of [[said]] the portable terminal upon activation of [[said]] the bar code reader with either of [[said]] the bar code activation buttons, whereby the user can view [[said]] the display and [[said]] the visible light source upon activation of either of [[said]] the bar code activation buttons.

4. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 3, wherein [[said]] the portable terminal further comprises a touch sensitive area within [[said]] the touch sensitive display for receiving data inputs from a stylus pen.

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5. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 3, wherein [[said]] the portable terminal further comprises an information key for allowing a user to display product information.

6. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the controller comprises inference means for deriving a shopping profile for the customer.

7. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal comprises means for converting any currency amount to and from a corresponding Euro amount.

8. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal is coupled to a telephone line and [[said]] the shopping terminal comprises means for providing secure and silent communications when transferring data to and from [[said]] the shopping terminal without notifying or disturbing a user.

9. (Canceled)

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10. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein [[said]] the bar code storage device comprises:

an egg-shaped housing;

a bar code reader for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, [[said]] the bar code reader having a visible light indicator for indicating the scanning status of the bar code reader and at least one bar code activation button located on the top surface of [[said]] the bar code storage device for activating [[said]] the bar code reader;

memory storage mean coupled to [[said]] the bar code reader for storing [[said]] the bar codes; and

communication means for transferring [[said]] the bar codes to [[said]] the controller over [[said]] the at least one network.

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11. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal comprises a scanning system comprising a wearable computer processor and a wearable scanning device in communication with the computer processor.

12. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 11, wherein [[said]] the scanning system further comprises a headset having a speaker and a miniature display device for providing a audio, graphical and video information.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the controller means for controlling the transaction processing and the operation of the POS system and [[said]] the at least one shopping terminal;

means for communicating with at least one shopping terminal located within [[said]] the shopping establishment;

means for communicating with at least one remotely located shopping terminal via a telephone;

means for communicating voice data between [[said]] the controlling means and [[said]]

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the at least one remotely located shopping terminal;

means for remotely ordering goods to be gathered by store personnel at [[said]] the shopping establishment; and

means for communicating with [[said]] the at least one remotely located shopping terminal over the Internet.

15. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 14, wherein [[said]] the controlling means comprises:

means for starting and restarting the operation of [[said]] the shopping system;

means for terminating the operation of [[said]] the shopping system;

means for displaying the operational status of [[said]] the shopping system;

means for controlling the day-to-day operations and maintenance tasks of the shopping system;

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means for displaying the status of communications related to [[said]] the shopping system;

means for preparing [[said]] the shopping system to accept an upcoming day's transactions;

means for transferring price data files from the POS system to [[said]] the controller; and

means for allowing a system operator to disable checking on transactions by [[said]] the controller so as to speed up checkout processing during busy periods.

16. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 14, wherein [[said]] the controlling means comprises means for processing transactions related to [[said]] the shopping establishment including start of day processing, normal store processing, end of day processing and overnight processing.

17. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 14, wherein [[said]] the means for remotely ordering goods is used to generate a picking list from a home computing terminal having access to the Internet.

18. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]]

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the shopping terminal is a portable terminal; [[said]] the portable terminal comprising means for freely associating with a corresponding communications network.

19. (Currently Amended) The shopping system according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the shopping terminal comprises means for fingerprint identification.

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for shopping at a shopping establishment having a centrally-controlled shopping system for processing shopping transactions and orders from shopping establishment and remote locations, the centrally-controlled shopping system having a point-of-sale (POS) system located in the shopping establishment, at least one establishment or remotely located portable shopping terminal, and a controller in communication with the POS system and the at least one terminal via at least one communications network, [[said]] the method comprising:

associating the terminal with the at least one network and a customer, wherein the terminal is a bar code storage device for reading bar codes from a hardcopy source, storing the bar codes, and transferring the bar codes to the controller over the at least one network;

monitoring product sales areas in the shopping establishment via one or more proximity sensors coupled to the controller;

scanning one or more items to be purchased using the terminal;
returning the terminal to the terminal receptacle;
collecting a receipt corresponding to the scanned items; and
purchasing the scanned items at a customer check-out station.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein [[said]] the associating step checking-in by a customer at a customer entry station;

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authorizing the at least one terminal for use by the customer; and
obtaining the authorized terminal from a terminal receptacle.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein [[said]] the associating step comprises the step of freely associating the terminal with the at least one network.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
generating a shopping list from a remote location;
forwarding [[said]] the shopping list to the controller;
generating a picking list at the controller corresponding to items identified in the shopping list; and
collecting the items identified in the picking list for check-out or delivery.

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27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
generating a shopping list from a remote location;
forwarding [[said]] the shopping list to the controller;
generating a picking list at the controller corresponding to items identified in the shopping list;
assigning a picking list ID barcode to the picking list;
printing a label showing the picking list ID barcode;
scanning the items corresponding to the picking list; and
collecting the scanned items for check-out or delivery.

28. (Withdrawn)

29. (Withdrawn)

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

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32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Withdrawn)

35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Withdrawn)

37. (Withdrawn)

38. (Withdrawn)